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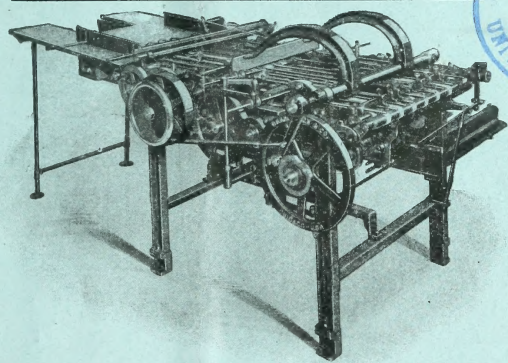
[REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER FOR TRANSMISSION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.] **FORTY-THIRD YEAR.**

VOLUME LXXXIX. LONDON: SEPTEMBER 1, 1921. EVERY THURSDAY. NUMBER 9. PRICE TWOPENCE.

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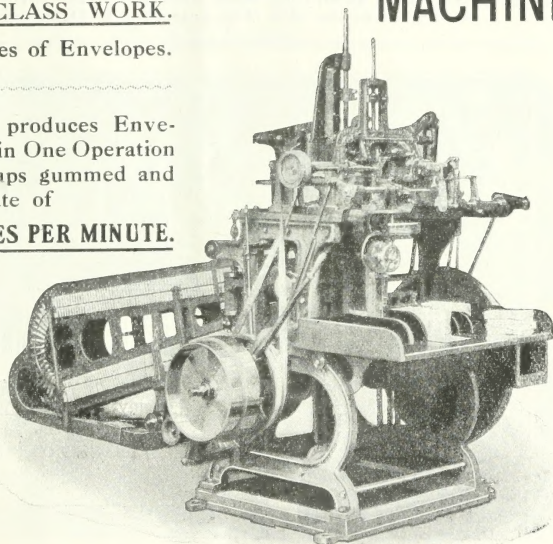
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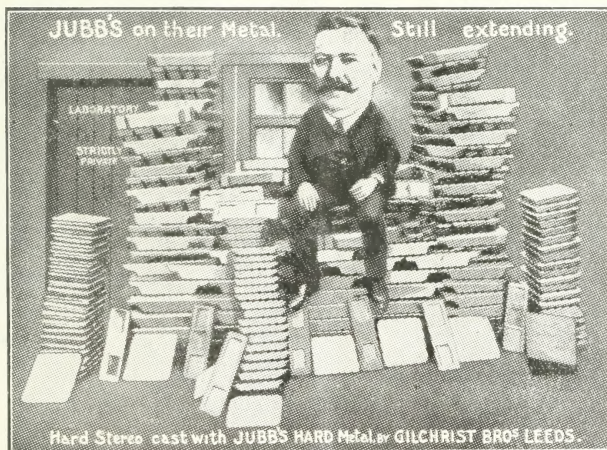
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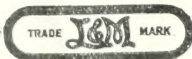
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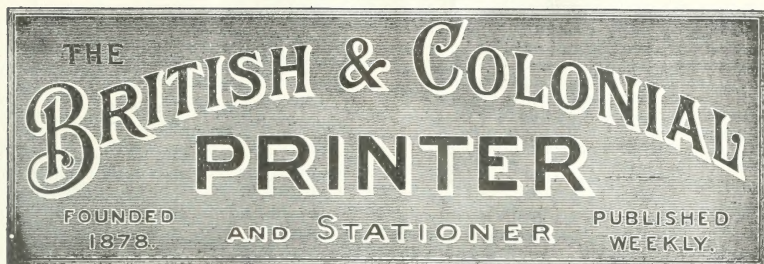
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FORTY-THIRD YEAR.

VOLUME LXXXIX.
NUMBER 9.

LONDON: SEPTEMBER 1, 1921.

EVERY THURSDAY.
PRICE TWOPENCE.

The Bookbinder and the Time Docket.

A Review of this Important Question
as it Appears at the Present Time.

The controversy on the subject of time dockets in the bindery, which has been well maintained in this journal since June 9th, has served a distinctly useful purpose, and has probably had some bearing on the recent decision to appoint a six-a-side committee to investigate the Federation Costing System, with special reference to its effect upon the employees in the industry. We are now able to look back on the whole of the correspondence, and form some sort of conclusion as to its general trend. The most striking feature is the fact that, along with the majority of the trade union officials, Mr. Harraway is sympathetic toward the general inauguration of the time docket as a piece of the cost-finding machinery. The courage embodied in a frank statement of opinion on a contentious subject by a trade union leader in a trade paper is a matter not lightly to be passed over. With sympathy and commonsense on the workers' side, it will not be very long before the docket is recognised and accepted by every branch of the Binders' Union.

The Workers' Apprehension.

There were passages in the recent correspondence which clearly evinced the necessity for similar attributes on the employers' side. If the docket is to be a workable thing when it comes, we shall need the goodwill of the employees to render it so. For that reason we personally view with some concern the inability of some employers to appreciate the workers' viewpoint, not only on the docket, but on other things equally important. However, the great majority of workers and employers in the binding industry are honest in their efforts and fair in their feelings toward

each other. The return to the employer is just about commensurate with his concern for the interests of his workers, and in nothing more than in the working of the costing system routine. Mr. Harraway spoke of the unscrupulous employers and foremen who used the workers' times unfairly against themselves and their colleagues. As far as foremen are concerned, they are members of the union, and the treatment of such unworthy members should surely be a matter safe with the branches. At least, we would like to think so. As to employers, there are doubtless a select few who might stoop to such a practice, but the inevitable result of administrative misuse of the system is operative misuse. From the very moment that unscrupulous application of recorded data begins, faulty time recording and cooked figures are served up by the worker in self-defence. On both sides we can quite afford to disregard this aspect of cost-finding and recording.

Is There a Practical Difficulty?

According to Mr. Harraway, the one really serious obstacle to the immediate general recognition of the docket is the inability of employers to define how it can assist to more accurate cost-finding. At some length we explained this in the *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer* of July 7th, but for some reason Mr. Harraway failed to respond. That was a disappointment to us personally, inasmuch as we took some pains to go into the whole subject from a practical viewpoint. If the basic cause of the workers' opposition to the docket consists in a practical difficulty which they claim to exist, surely the soundest

method of approaching a solution is to concentrate on that particular point. While we ourselves endeavoured to do that, the other parties to the controversy drew a barrel of herrings over the track and settled down to their own peculiar repeat. The docket question is really too serious a matter to provide the basis for a bellicose or recriminative de-meanour.

The Obstructive Wall.

The best and most progressive houses in the trade want to get on with their costing organisation. In every other department of the allied trades the costing system is working smoothly and well. In a hundred different ways, which become apparent at one time and another, the records bring along information which helps to provide the foundation for improvement, progress and development. At the binding department there is a stone wall which bars the way to sound business organisation. The builders and upholders of the wall believe it to be a necessary safeguard of their interests. The removal of the wall is a matter for brains rather than force. When the men behind it are satisfied that by its removal their interests will not suffer, they will help to pull it down. The crux of the whole thing is enlightenment. We cannot help but interpose here once again our hope that Mr. Harraway will at least acknowledge our effort at enlightenment afore-mentioned.

The administrative side of the industry must incline sympathetically to the men's view-point. Perhaps this six-a-side committee will provide the best possible opening for seeing eye-to-eye. Meantime those houses whose sole desire is to conduct their business on sound and visible lines, must carry on patiently, securing reliable records from the departments where they are possible and accepting unhelpful figures from the departments in which the dockets are withheld.

Printing Examinations.

The prizes and certificates gained by printing students at the examinations held last session will be presented by Sir William A. Waterlow, K.B.E., J.P., at Stationers' Hall on Friday, September 16th, at 6.30, when Mr. W. Howard Hazell, J.P., chairman of St. Bride Printing School, will preside, supported by leading representatives of the printing industry.

It is expected that interesting information will be given in reference to the development of technical education and the proposed new printing trades technical college. All who are interested in technical education are cordially invited to be present.

NEW YORK BINDERS' STRIKE.—The binding strike, which began on April 1st in New York terminated disastrously for the unions about a month ago, when the binderies with open-shop organisation completed their forces with the old men now anxious to come back and practically regained their pre-strike output.

The Imprint on Posters.

Stiff Fines at Hertford.

Before the Hertford County Bench on Saturday, the *Daily Mirror* Newspapers, Ltd., were summoned at the instance of Herbert Creasey, printer, of Hertford, for printing posters in connection with the Hertford Division Parliamentary election which failed to bear upon the name and address of printer and publisher. There were four summonses for printing posters which failed to bear on the face the name and address of the printer and publisher, fifteen summonses for publishing and thirteen for posting, in addition to a further summons for failure to include the cost of the posters in the return of the candidate's expenses.

Sir Richard Muir, for the defence, asked for an adjournment, as sufficient time had not been allowed to investigate the law on the subject. Sir Ellis Hume Williams, for the prosecution, objected to adjournment. He suggested that the Bench should proceed with the cases of printing, publishing and posting bills without the imprint on them. The Bench agreed to an adjournment of the indictable case, but they decided to hear those relating to the posters without imprints.

The first summons proceeded with, alleged that on June 15th at Bishop's Stortford, the defendants caused to be posted divers posters having reference to the election which failed to bear the name of the printer and publisher, contrary to Statute.

Sir Hume Williams, after reading the section, said the defendants were liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £100. The necessity for the imprint was that they could find out who was responsible for the statements made.

Sir Ellis called evidence to the effect that the defendants had the bills posted upon their own authority, and that payment for the posting was not included in the election returns.

Evidence was called in support of counsel's statements, and a fine of £50 and £21 costs was imposed. The second case was similar, but in respect of posters put up in Hertford, and in this case a fine of £25 and ten guineas costs was imposed. The Court then adjourned the remainder of the cases till October 15th.

The solicitors for the proprietors of the *Daily Mirror* have written to the Press emphasising the fact that the proceedings were wholly undefended, Sir Richard Muir having appeared as counsel for the *Daily Mirror* simply to apply for an adjournment of the proceedings.

MR. AXEL HERMAN HAIG, the etcher, who has died at Southsea, aged 85, was a native of the island of Gotland, in the Baltic. He did many lithographs and other drawings in his time, but for the past thirty years had devoted himself to etching.

The Composer's Wage.

Case Stated for the L.S.C.

On behalf of the London Society of Compositors, Mr. T. E. Naylor (secretary) has issued to London master printers a letter in which he argues that present conditions do not justify any reduction at all in the wages paid to the London compositor.

"After conferring with the Federation of Master Printers," he writes, "we were informed in the first instance that we must accept a reduction of 15s. That is to say, the moderately paid compositor was asked to submit to a reduction that would bring his wages below the pre-war level.

"As this proposal was put forward on the ground of falling prices, we ask you to remember that prices are again rising, and that the compositor's present wage of £5 per week leaves no margin for reduction. Here are the figures:

| Compositor's Pre-War Wage, 1914. | Present Wage. | Wage Increase percent- age. | Government Cost of Living Figure. June. | Wage Increase Percentage after 15s. Reduction. | Amount below Pre-War Wage after 15s. Reduction. | Labour Committee's Cost of Living Figure. June. | Amount below Pre-War Wage after 15s. Reduction. |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Hand ... 39s. | 100s. | 156 | 119 | 117 | 8d. | 141 | 8s. |
| Machine... 45s. | 105s. | 133 | 119 | 100 | 6s. 4d. | 141 | 13s. 8d. |

"It will be noted that the position of the machine compositor is worse than that of the hand compositor by 17 points.

"The cost-of-living figure issued by the Ministry of Labour is under-stated, hence the additional comparison in the above table with the cost-of-living figure issued by the official Labour Committee. Apart from the difference of 22 points between the two computations, on the Government figure itself the London compositor is brought below the pre-war level. Another fact to be borne in mind is that between 1902 and 1914 prices rose by 15 points without any increase of wages—to the London compositor. Add that 15 points to the Government figure, 119, and he is a further 5s. to the bad.

"It must also be pointed out that during the period when prices rose from 156 to a maximum of 176, the London compositors' wage was no more, and for part of the time actually less, than it is now. He was working at a fairly considerable loss.

"In asking us to accept that reduction, the Federation of Master Printers not only said in effect that the London compositor must be content with a lower wage, but that the past seven years shall be made barren of any improvement; while they also ignore the substantial advance made by other sections of the trade.

"Gentlemen, we ask you, Is this fair to the

London compositor? Are you justified in posting notices of a wages reduction, which our members will be instructed to regard as notice of dismissal?

"Since the foregoing paragraphs were written, prices have again risen. The cost of living have gone up to 122 points (August 2nd), with indications of a further rise. Is this the time to press for a reduction of wages? Will not such a course lead to trade disturbance and unsettlement, and deaden the spirit of co-operation so essential to high production in the good time that is coming? These questions convey their own answers.

"The proposed reduction of 15s. was altered to 10s., and later to 7s. 6d., but that makes little difference to our case as stated above. We contend, moreover, that the compositor's wage before the war was so inadequate that present conditions do not justify any reduction at all. No one can say that at 2s. 1d. per hour the compositor is overpaid.

"We confidently face the issue raised, relying on your sense of fairness to do what is right, and appeal to you not to depreciate the position of your most highly skilled craftsmen."

Employers' Reply to Mr. Naylor.

The London Master Printers' Association is circulating a letter, in which reply is made to Mr. Naylor's statement in regard to the wages of the London compositor. The accuracy of the official index figure is maintained, and a comparison of pre-war and present wages is made, showing that the London compositor is to day receiving 13s. 6d. above the pre-war standard, while, if account is taken of the reduction of working hours and the yearly holiday, the compositor will still, after a reduction of 7s. 6d., be 10s. a week better off.

MESSRS. SUCKLING AND CO. are showing some remarkably fine Bible printings and thin coated art papers, the product of a mill for which they have recently acquired the agency. These are speciality papers which are outside the scope of the bulk of our own mills and they meet a need which the user often finds it difficult to fill even in normal times. The chief features of the new lines are quality and efficiency, factors which are not always present in imported grades of uncertain origin.

Standardisation of Paper.

A Pressing Need for the Printing Trade and How it Could be Met.

By W. HOWARD HAZELL.

(Continued from page 182).

When the "thousand" is adopted as the basis, prices would be quoted per thousand sheets. This system will very greatly simplify the calculation of the cost of small quantities of paper. Every 10s. in the price per thousand is 1s. per 100 sheets. If the price per thousand be turned into pence the price of smaller quantities could be found instantly by moving the decimal point, as the following example shows:—

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|--------|
| If a "thousand" cost 22s. 9d. | 273 | pence. |
| One sheet | 273 | " |
| Ten sheets | 273 | " |
| One hundred sheets cost | 273 | " |

Under the present system, before the price of any small quantity of paper could be found, it is necessary to find out the number of sheets in the ream in order to calculate the price per quire; but when the "thousand" is adopted as the unit this uncertainty is removed, and the price of small quantities is found very quickly.

Records kept of paper used are very much simplified, as under the present system it is necessary to total the reams, quires and sheets, and convert them into reams, but if the "thousand" be the basis the addition of these figures automatically converts the sheets into "thousands."

The present anomaly of using the names Demy, Medium, etc., for different sizes of papers when they are supplied in writings or printings, should be abandoned, and distinctive names given, so that no word is used to represent two sizes of paper. Certain sizes of paper, such as Double Crown, are always of a uniform size when supplied by any wholesale stationer, but in other sizes there is considerable variation amounting to as much as quarter or half an inch. This variation only leads to confusion and uncertainty, and if standard sizes were agreed on for all the named papers, it would be of very considerable advantage to papermakers, wholesale stationers and printers. When the named papers and regular sizes are standardised, every wholesale stationer would naturally stock these sizes. In addition he would stock such "out" sizes, which would be sold by inch measurement and not by name, as he found desirable. It is not intended that the scheme for standardisation should eliminate the "out" sizes, exceptional packing, etc., which may be required for certain branches of the trade.

When the sizes have been standardised, it would also be possible to have standard substances, i.e., it would be recognised that stationers would stock standard sizes in stan-

dard weights, and the standard weights would be obtainable in all sizes. It very often happens that a printer may quote for a job printed in double crown. If the quantity be very largely increased, he may wish to print it in quad crown, or even in eight crown, but he is not certain that he would be able to obtain equivalent weights in the three sizes of paper. The advantage of having standard substances is that when a mill is making paper, it could make and store in the reel paper of the standard thicknesses, and cut them to the single, double or quad sizes, and printers would know that they could obtain the standard thicknesses from any stationer. Another advantage is that these standard weights of paper could be sold by number, and the substance number based on the number of grammes per square metre of paper. The number of grammes would not affect the printer at all, as it is only a basis of measurement which would be dealt with by the papermaker, and the printer and stationer would deal with the paper by number. For instance, paper No. 80 (which is 80 grammes per square metre) would weigh:—

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Large post | 40 |
| Demy | 45 |
| Double foolscap | 51 |
| Double crown | 68 |

A printer would know that if he ordered paper No. 80 in demy or quad demy, crown or quad crown, he would get paper equivalent to 45 lbs. demy per thousand sheets, and many calculations and inquiries would be saved.

The above is an outline of the suggestions that have been worked out for the standardisation of paper and boards. There is no doubt that if these suggestions, or some modifications thereof, be adopted, there would be very considerable reductions in the amount of stock that is carried in the paper and printing trade, the number of errors and the time spent in calculating prices and quantities. These advantages must lead to a reduced cost, and when cost is reduced, there is naturally an increased demand, which is the crying need of the printing trade at the present time. Any improvement of old-fashioned and obsolete methods adds to efficiency, and efficiency is a stepping-stone to higher profits and improved conditions generally.

NEWSPAPER STANDARDISATION.—Standardisation of newspaper sizes in America is being promoted by the National Editorial Association, which announces that the committee appointed to recommend suitable sizes decided upon the following:—Seven column—20 in. long and 12 ems wide; six column—19½ in. and 13 ems wide. Those who support the adoption of uniform sizes argue that by the adoption of those sizes the papermakers and press manufacturers will be able to eliminate many sizes now required, and prices may be lowered.

The employees of Messrs. Parbury Bros., printers, Coventry, held their annual outing to Worcester (via Broadway) on Saturday by motor charabanc.

State Printing and Economy.

Trade Union Matters.

Printers' "Ring" Alleged.

Attention is drawn in the report from the Select Committee on Publications and Debates Reports, issued on Thursday as a White Paper, to the fact that the gross total for the ordinary services, stationery and printing amounts to over £5,000,000, as compared with £1,200,000 for the year 1912-13. There is, however, a reduction of £992,630 in the estimates for 1921-22 over the estimates for the year 1920-21, of which amount £400,000 represents the decrease in the cost of printing registers, etc., under the Representation of the People Act.

The number of the contractors who took up the printing of the register amounted to 750, proceeds the report. The Controller, in his evidence, stated that there had been a ring of the contractors as against the Stationery Office, but that owing to the longer time which the Stationery Office had to put out the contracts, and the fact that they placed them all over the country, the prices fell considerably; but adds, it is only fair to the contractors who did the work to state that the Committee were not in a position to hear evidence from them on this point.

The Committee urge the urgency of their recommendations as to the appointment of Departmental Committees in view of the greatly enhanced cost of stationery.

With reference to the establishment of the Stationery Office Printing Works, which are now in running order at Harrow, the Committee express the opinion that the present would not appear to be an opportune time to increase the establishment of a Government printing office, or to make further large purchases of machinery, in view of the great slackness in the printing trade throughout the country; as a result of this slackness of trade very favourable contracts could no doubt be made with private firms, and the spending of large sums of Government money on the setting up of new printing presses and the engagement of a considerable staff does not appear to be necessary.

The Committee also recommend that no advertising contract shall be extended, but that a new tender shall be asked for each year, and that this contract shall be open to all advertising agents.

The death occurred on the 21st ult., at Sheringham, Norfolk, of Thomas Brady, aged 75, superannuated member of Binders, and Machine Rulers' Society, for many years with Messrs. Macmillan and Co.

An addition to monthly periodicals is *Form*, a magazine of the arts (originally published as a quarterly), edited by A. O. Spare and W. H. Davies, printed and published by the Morland Press, Ltd., 190, Ebury-street, S.W.1. The first number of the new issue is to be published in October.

APROPOS of the wages question, in many of the unions during the years of war, especially those engaged on war work, there was a great influx of members, the nature of the work done then making it economically possible to pay a high wage in comparison with the unions that were not affected in the same way. Now that attempts are being made to bring about more normal conditions, it is found that difficulties present themselves in the paying of an uneconomic wage to a large section of the workers, who before the war were in receipt of much lower remuneration.

THE various trade unions during the war years shared alike the same flat-rate increases, irrespective of skill and craftsmanship. From these and many other points of view, we find it being urged in various quarters that, in order that the printing craft may be able to cope with present conditions, and be able to resume its pre-war status, due regard should be given to the question of skill and craftsmanship as the criterion for securing a more just and equitable remuneration.

In keeping with the unfortunate experience of trade unionism generally is that of the Leeds Typographical Society, whose quarterly report says that the main feature of the past three months has been the enormous amount of unemployment and short time in the city. The expenditure on account of the special branch unemployment fund has exceeded the income by more than £285, while the gross expenditure for the quarter exceeds £6,860—a record in the history of the society.

In the paper trade employment continues slack, and of nearly 7,000 workpeople for whom returns were received 52 per cent. are working an average of 12 hours per week short time. A number of employers report a shortage of fuel.

OWING to statements which have been made by responsible labour leaders, the Federation of British Industries points out that it takes no part in politics whatever, and has never at any time supported or worked for Parliamentary candidates.

PENSIONS BAZAAR.—As the result of a bazaar arranged by the Watford employees of Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., on Saturday, the Printers' Pension, Almshouse and Orphan Asylum Corporation will benefit by at least £750.

THE officials of the Lloyd Memorial Home, Deal, have recently acquired, at a cost of £2,000, a number of residential houses, which are to serve as an annex to the Home. This new addition will be capable of giving accommodation to 200 people.

Unemployment Decreasing.

Position in the Paper and Allied Trades.

Unemployment is decreasing in the paper and allied trades, but the decrease is especially marked in papermaking and staining. The estimated number of insured workpeople in papermaking and staining is put at 56,840, comprising 38,590 males and 18,250 females. At July 29th the number of unemployment books and out-of-work donation policies remaining lodged was 6,851, representing 4,174 males and 2,677 females. The percentage unemployed works out at 12.05 (10.82 in the case of males and 14.67 in the case of females). The total decrease compared with June 24th in unemployment is thus 15.27 per cent. (15.36 per cent. males and 15.07 per cent. females).

The estimated number of insured workpeople in the manufactured stationery trade is 68,390, of whom 22,580 are males and 45,810 females. Total unemployment at July 29th was 8,237, a figure which included 2,224 males and 6,013 females. The percentage of unemployment was 12.04 (9.85 in the case of males and 13.13 in the case of females). These figures represent a total decrease compared with June 24th of 2.30 per cent. (2.29 per cent. males and 3.28 per cent. females).

In the case of the printing, publishing and bookbinding trades the decrease in unemployment shows a smaller variation. The estimated number of insured workpeople is 220,160, made up of 144,590 males and 75,570 females. Total unemployment at July 29th affected 18,623 workpeople (11,906 males and 6,717 females). The total percentage of unemployment was 8.06 (8.23 males and 8.89 females). The total decrease compared with June 24th was 1.05 per cent. (0.56 per cent. in the case of males and 2.00 per cent. in the case of females).

Short time continues to be a feature of the papermaking and staining industries, and the total percentage of 10.23 was among the highest recorded in the *Labour Gazette*. The total number of workpeople who were on systematic short time on July 29th in this particular trade was 5,813 (3,725 males, 2,088 females). The total decreases, compared with June 24th were 5.862 (males 3.697, females 2.165). As already stated, the total percentage on short time was 10.23 (males 9.65 and females 11.44). Compared with June 24th, there was a total decrease of 10.31 per cent. (males 9.58 per cent. and females 11.86 per cent.).

In the manufactured stationery industry 5,132 workpeople were on short time at July 29th, representing 778 males and 4,354 females. The total decrease, as compared with June 24th, was 3,961 (853 males and 3,108 females). The percentage of workpeople on short time at the end of July was, total, 7.50 (males 3.45, females 9.50). The figures represent a total decrease of 5.80 per cent. (males 3.77 per cent., females 6.79 per cent.).

Although the total number of workpeople

employed in the printing, publishing and bookbinding section of the allied industries is considerably in excess of those engaged in other branches, the number on short time at July 29th was less, the total being 3,827, made up of 1,544 males and 2,283 females. The total decrease compared with June 24th was 5,399 (2,395 males and 2,914 females). The total percentage of workpeople on short time at the end of July was 1.74 (1.07 males and 3.02 females). Compared with June 24th, the total decrease is 2.41 per cent. (1.65 per cent. males and 3.86 per cent. females).

For what it is worth, we may mention the figures furnished by certain employers as to the number of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid in the week ended July 23rd. The total employed is 10,704, an increase of 23.0 per cent. compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 13.7 as against the position a year ago. The wages paid amounted to £29,070, an increase of 21.1 per cent. on the previous month, and a decrease of 25.6 per cent. as compared with a year before.

British Industries Fair.

Opportunity for Printers.

Invitations are just out asking industrial concerns and business houses to secure space at the British Industries Fair which will be held at the White City, Shepherd's Bush, from February 27th to March 10th next. The accommodation last year was found to be more suitable than at the Crystal Palace, and the same plans as to classification will be made. Thus allied trades will be kept together so that visitors will run no risk of missing anything they ought to see.

There is again a prospect of a good display of stationery and printing goods, but it is hoped that more actual printers also will see their way to exhibit at the Fair.

A section of the Fair will be again devoted to paper, printing, publishing, stationery and stationers' sundries and office appliances. Hitherto actual papermakers have not taken advantage of the opportunities which the Fair offers for advertising British paper, and it is thought in some quarters that it is high time they did so. While trade is not particularly good at the moment, this is just the time to prepare to capture it when it is again in full swing. All the papermakers will be grouped together and will be housed in the same building as the printers and stationers. The more imposing the show made, the more impression will be made upon the home and foreign visitors who will be attracted to Shepherd's Bush.

It may be mentioned that of the 3s. 6d. per square foot that is charged for floor space, 6d. goes in advertising overseas, and with a new confectionery section added next year there will be more money available for this purpose.

Trade Notes.

MR. JOHN MACAULAY, Greenock, one of the proprietors of the *Greenock Telegraph*, left £10,872.

FROM Cape Town is announced the death of Mr. Edmund Powell, ex-senator and formerly editor of the *Cape Argus*.

THERE was a large attendance of the general public and of the Order of Oddfellows, with which he had been connected as an official for many years, at the funeral on Monday of Mr. David Williams, printer and stationer, Bridgend.

DESCRIBING himself as a printer in Glasgow, Louis Gilbey or Ginsburg, aged 32, was at Bootle, Liverpool, on Friday, committed to prison for three months with hard labour for having obtained by false pretences a diamond ring, value £19.

WILLS.—Ald. Arthur Truelove, Wolstenholme-road, Sheffield, cardboard-box manufacturer—£54,317; Mr. Amos Gibbins, Liverpool, printer (net personality, £1,322), £1,377; Mr. Lanfear Robson Tanner, of Frome, printer and binder, £47,388; Mr. Robert Brazier, of Oxford, journalist, £1,986; Mr. David Roberts, Swansea, a director of the *Cambria Daily Leader*, £24,500.

FOR wilfully breaking a pane of glass, valued at £1, at the premises of Odham's Press, Ltd., Long-acre, W.C., printers of *John Bull*, George Pressley, 40, teacher of dancing, of King-street, Aberdeen, was at Bow-street last week fined 40s., and ordered to pay the amount of the damage. The defendant was a heavy loser in the Farrow's Bank disaster, and took objection to remarks about the failure by Mr. Bottomley in *John Bull*.

POSTAL RATES ABSURDITY.—A large piece of white cardboard, measuring 24-in. by 12-in., the maximum size allowed for post cards, and containing an address and the impression of a rubber stamp advertisement, and franked with one penny stamp, was duly delivered. During its transmission this gigantic "post card" must have been a nuisance at every step. Yet the Post Office seeks no more than a penny for handling it, while the ordinary post card conveying only the message "Arrived safely" must bear a 1½d. stamp.

PROCESS BLOCK TRADE MARK.—In respect of the new registered mark (recently illustrated in our pages) used by members of the Federation of Master Process Engravers an interesting case has cropped up in the Midlands in which a non-Federation house was discovered to have sold blocks bearing this mark. Inquiry by the Federation, however, elicited the fact that the blocks had been made by a Federation house and paid for at Federation prices by the first purchaser, but had then passed through the hands of the second seller, a foreign agent. Steps are being taken, we understand, to prevent such a thing recurring.

MAXIMILIAN HARDEN'S *Die Zukunft* is to cease publication.

BREECHES BIBLE.—General Henry Alexander Cockburn, of Eskgrove, Inveresk, Midlothian, who died on August 20th, bequeathed his copy of the Breeches Bible to his son.

THE *Hull Daily News*, by a campaign against the high cost of living, has earned a special expression of thanks from the Hull Branch of the Typographical Association.

U.S. PRICES.—In spite of the drop in paper price and binding costs, it costs as much to make a book in the United States as it did a year ago, as there were decided increases in printing costs last fall on the wage increase and again on May 1st, when the 44-hour week went into effect.

FORDNEY TARIFF.—Major George Haven Putnam, the well-known New York publisher, is one of those who, in view of the provisions of the proposed new U.S. tariff, predicts that the burden of the proposed duties will bring practically to an end the importation of European books in editions.

LIBRARIANS AND PUBLISHERS.—The annual conference of the Library Association is to be held at the College of Technology, Manchester, during the week beginning September 12th. The publishers' exhibition, associated with the conference for the first time last year, is expected to have grown to such an extent as in itself to mark the conference as one of the most important ever held by the association. The space available at the college is being eagerly taken up by the leading publishing houses.

FORTHCOMING LONDON DAILY. — Rumour develops in respect of the expected launching in London of a first-class daily newspaper on Independent Liberal lines. Mentioned in connection with the project are Sir Charles Stormer, the controller of the *Sheffield Independent*, *Birmingham Gazette*, and the *Northern Echo*, and the proprietors and editor of the *Westminster Gazette*, while it is stated that the machinery and other plant to be used will be those of the *Standard*, unused since the demise of that journal.

INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISTS. — Apropos of the holding by the Institute of Journalists of its annual conference at Bournemouth on the 31st ult., Mr. Robert Donald wrote to *The Times* urging that the occasion be used for an inquiry into the position and prospects of the institute, which is in a bad way financially. "The deficit on the year," he writes, "is £630—more than one-third of the amount received in subscriptions—£1,568. The secretariat salaries are about 55 per cent. of the income from members, and with office expenses nearly 60 per cent. The vigorous rival organisation, the National Union of Journalists, without the advantage of age or of a Royal Charter or of endowment, has three times as many members—all working journalists—and nearly four times the subscriptions, and only spends 15 per cent. on its officials or 22 per cent. with office expenses."



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agents, 11, St. Bride-street, E.C. 4.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1921.

Current Topics.

Ballot Results.

THE results of the wages ballot have given rise to a position that holds dangerous possibilities. Ballot figures have not been made public, but it is known that while the offered terms of wage-reduction (5s. and 2s. 6d. men; 2s. and 1s., women) have been accepted by the National Union of Printing, Bookbinding, Machine Ruling and Paper Workers, the Amalgamated Society of Lithographic Artists, the Society of Women employed in the Bookbinding and Kindred Trades (Miss Forsyth's Union), and the Women's Section of the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants, they have been rejected by most of the male workers, including the members of the Typographical Association, the Scottish Typographical Association, the National Society of Electrotypers and Stereotypers, and the trade unions confined to the London area.

A Difficult Position.

FOLLOWING upon the ascertainment of the ballot results, the Federation of Master Printers has instructed its members to give notice to members of the trade unions who have rejected the proposals that wages will be reduced by 7s. 6d. per week on the pay day in the week ending September 24th. We hear that, in view of this development, some of the trade unions are instructing their members that the posting of notices of wage-reduction is to be taken as notice of termination of contracts. Thus the position holds all the possibilities of serious trouble for the industry. We are confident, however, that affairs will not be allowed to drift to a climax without the most vigorous efforts on both sides to find some peaceable way out of the threatened stoppage. At the time of printing (Wednesday) the position is being considered at important meetings of the London Master Printers' Association and the Administrative Council of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation of the United Kingdom. The very good relations hitherto existing between the two sides are still being maintained, and while this is the case there is ground for hope that the dispute may admit of a pacific settlement.

* * *

The S.O. and a Printers' "Ring."

THE charge is once more preferred—in the White Paper dealt with on another page—that efforts towards economy on the part of H.M. Stationery Office are thwarted by a "ring" among contracting printers. It is admitted, however, that the said printers have not been given opportunity of presenting any evidence in refutation of the charge. It was in 1907, we believe, that a similar allegation was put forward, and on that occasion the printers were able to produce convincing evidence that the charge was false. More will doubtless be heard of this matter, and we think the contractors of to-day will have a strong case to present in contradicting the present accusation, for is it not common knowledge that the severe competition for Government work makes it necessary that the printers who hope to secure contracts or to maintain those they hold should quote the lowest prices they reasonably can? It is gratifying to note, by the way, that in the same White Paper support is given to the printing trade's contention that the expansion of State printing schemes would serve no purpose of public advantage, but would act rather in the direction of the extension of the realms of "squandermania."

The Increased-Postage Blunder.

THE remarks of Sir Adolph Tuck at the annual meeting of the company over which he presides (reported on another page) have again brought into the limelight the subject of the ill effects of the recent increases in postal rates. The big profit shown by this very successful company is not a valid argument in the hands of the official advocates of the new taxes on trade, as the company's picture post card business, immense as it is, represents only 10 per cent. of the total turnover of Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., and—more important still—the damage inflicted by the Post Office imposts can hardly be reflected in this year's balance-sheet, which deals with the financial year ending on April 30th. We commend to the serious attention of the Postmaster-General Sir Adolph Tuck's figure of 50 per cent. as representing the ascertained cut in picture post card business, directly attributable to the revised postage regulations. If sales are halved, postages are halved; therefore, even when the increased postage is allowed for, the result must be a heavy decrease in Post Office revenue instead of the substantial increase bargained for. Moreover, all the signs go to show that the increased rates for printed matter are operating in the same unfortunate direction, the Post Office revenue failing to benefit while trade in general and the printing industry in particular suffer a most damaging handicap. The Press of the country appears to be unanimous in its condemnation of this anti-business policy of officialdom. A leading financial journal goes so far as to remark that "it sometimes seems a pity that a definite penalty should not await any Minister who follows a wrong course against the plainest warning and with disastrous results." We are not out for scalps, but we do urge that this question of postage be given early reconsideration before further and almost irredeemable harm is inflicted on British industry.

HOME COUNTIES PRINTERS' OUTINGS.—Any master printer in the Home Counties area who has not received an invitation to be present at one of the four attractive group outings arranged by the Home Counties Master Printers' Alliance should communicate with the secretary of the Alliance (24, Holborn), a most interesting series of gatherings having been arranged, to which all printers in the Home Counties will be welcomed.

AMONG the firms which have recently become members of the Federation of British Industries are Messrs. Hugh Stevenson and Sons, Ltd., Manchester, and the Federation of Paper Tube Makers, Rochdale.

Personal.

THE printer-President of the United States has honoured another printer by appointing as Governor of Hawaii Mr. Wallace B. Farrington, publisher of the Honolulu *Star-Bulletin*. Both Mr. Harding and Mr. Farrington are members of U.S. master printers' organisation, the United Typothetae.

LORD NORTHCLIFFE last week, given an official welcome by the authorities of Auckland (N.Z.), said he had no intention of starting a newspaper in Australia.

MR. F. L. ARMSTRONG, general secretary of the Employers' Federation of Envelope Makers and Manufacturing Stationers, has been appointed secretary of the Newspaper Society in succession to Mr. Frank Bird. During his association with the Envelope Makers Mr. Armstrong has made a special study of labour problems, and his knowledge and experience in this connection will stand him in good stead in the new office which he will take up in conjunction with his old. The part-time services of Mr. D. G. Little are to be retained. The Newspaper Society, by the way, are taking new offices in Salisbury-square.

THE Mayor of Swindon, Alderman E. Jones, who is blind, last Thursday started at the offices of the *Swindon Evening Advertiser* the new rotary press installed there. He took away as souvenirs the first dozen papers he had printed.

AMONG seven new magistrates on the Commission of the Peace for the city of Wells is Mr. J. C. Davis, the representative of the *Western Gazette* for the Wells district.

SIR HENRY GRAYSON, M.P., Chairman of H. and C. Grayson, the Liverpool ship-builders, and his son, Mr. Rupert Grayson, have joined the Board of the Eveleigh Nash Publishing Co., which in future will be known as Eveleigh Nash and Grayson, Ltd.

THE *Montreal Star* announces that Mr. F. Crandall, for ten years its executive editor, has taken over the publication and management of the *Vancouver World*, which he and his associates have recently purchased. Mr. Crandall is a director of the Canadian Press Ltd., is prominent in Canadian journalism, and, as honorary secretary of the Canadian Press Committee last year, successfully planned and carried out the meetings and Canadian tour of the Imperial Press Conference.

MR. W. MONKHOUSE, president of the Drawing Office Materials Association, is spending a holiday at Le Toquet, France.

Commercial Intelligence.

CURRENT SHARE PRICES.

Amalgamated Press, 96s. 6d., 97s. 6d., Pref., 15s. 6d.; Associated Newspapers, 7 p.c. Cum. 17s. 3d., Pref., 14s. 4½d., 14s. 3d.; British Glues and Chemicals, Pref., 17s. 3d., 17s. 6½.; Byrom, 14s.; R. W. Crabtree and Sons, 8 p.c. Cum. Partg. Pref., 5s. 6d.; *Financial News*, 27s. 6d., 6 p.c. 2nd Pref., 8s. 9d., 9s. 3d., Pref., 9s. 3d.; *Illustrated London News*, 1s. 3d., Pref., 6s. 7½d., 5s. 9d.; International Linotype, 51, 52; Lamson Paragon Supply, 15s. 3d., 15s. 6d., 10 p.c. Cum. Pref., l.p., 21s. 3d.; Edward Lloyd, Pref., 18s. 1½.; George Newnes, 12s. 6d.; Newnes and Pearson Printing, 8 p.c. Debs., Reg. 95; New Pegamoid, 11s. 3d., 11s. 6d.; Odhams, 8 p.c. Cum. Pref., 14s. 3d.; C. A. Pearson, Pref., 52s. 6d.; A. M. Peebles, 1st Deb., 91½.; Roneo, Pref., 14s. 6d.; Sunday Pictorial Newspapers, Pref., 17s. 6d.; Raphael Tuck, 15s. 7½d., Pref., 59s. 4½d.; Wall-Paper Manufacturers, 12s. 6d., Def., 5s. 3d., Pref., 12s. 6d.; Warrillows, 28s.; Waterlow and Sons, Def., 15½., Pref., 7½., 8½., 4 p.c. Pref., 5½.; Weldon's, 27s. 27s. 6d., Pref., 16s. 1½d.; Wiggins, Teape and Co. (1919), 15s. 6d., 15s. 4½d., 7 p.c. Cum. Pref., 10½d., 17s.; Winterbottom Book Cloth, Pref., 10s.; Wyman and Sons, Pref., 12s. 9d.

DIVIDENDS AND REPORTS.

CROPPER AND CO., LTD.—Report of Cropper and Co. for year to June 30th, 1921, shows net profits, after deducting depreciation, etc., of £18,129, plus £2,997 brought forward. It is proposed to pay on ordinary shares a final dividend of 2½ per cent, making 5 per cent. for year, writing off expenses in connection with new issue of capital £2,088, and carrying forward £2,793.

NEW COMPANIES.

R. ACKRILL, LTD.—Capital £20,000 in £1 shares: to take over the business of general printers, newspaper proprietors, printers and publishers, billposters, advertising agents, lithographers, electrotypers, engravers, typefounders, typecutters, booksellers, stationers and dealers in type, ink, paper and other materials, etc., carried on by W. H. Breare and Ellen Breare, at Harrogate, Ripon, Pateley Bridge and elsewhere as "R. Ackrill." Private company. First directors: W. H. Breare.

Ellen Breare, R. A. Breare, J. B. Breare and L. D. Breare. Registered offices: Herald-buildings, Montpellier-parade Harrogate.

WILLIAM EGLINGTON, LTD.—Capital £2,500 in £1 shares; proprietors and publishers of newspapers, journals, directories, magazines, books and other literary works, printers, stationers, lithographers, etc., and to adopt an agreement with W. Eglington. Private company. Subscribers: W. Eglington and W. E. Eglington. Registered office: 76. Finsbury-pavement, E.C.

JOHN PETERS, LTD.—Capital £1,000 in 750 shares of £1 each and 5,000 founders' shares of 1s. each; to take over the business of a print seller and publisher carried on by J. Peters at Guildhall-buildings, Navigation-street, Birmingham. Private company. Subscribers: J. Peters and W. Bigland. Registered office: Guildhall-buildings, Navigation-street, Birmingham.

GLASGOW CIGARETTE PAPER CO., LTD.—Capital £1,000 in £1 shares; to acquire the business of manufacturers of patent cigarette paper machines and cigarette paper tubes carried on at 364, Broad-street, Mile-end, Glasgow, by D. Molian as the "Glasgow Cigarette Paper Co." Private company. First directors: J. Gillies and D. Molian. Registered office: 133, St. Vincent-street, Glasgow.

COMPANY MORTGAGES AND CHARGES.

Fresh Obligations registered pursuant to Section 93 of the Companies' (Consolidation) Act, 1918, and Satisfaction registered pursuant to Section 97 of the same Act. (The registration of Satisfaction is not compulsory).

LYLE TRADING AND MANUFACTURING CO. LTD. (stationers, printers, engravers, manufacturers of photographic apparatus, envelopes, paper bags, tickets, boards, furniture, etc., London).—Satisfaction to the extent of £50 on May 26th, 1921, of debentures dated March 28th, 1907, securing £5,000.

MATHEW BROTHERS, LTD. (trade manufacturing stationers, etc., London).—Particulars of £500 debentures authorised July 30th, 1921; present issue £200; charged on company's property, present and future, including un-called capital.

PHILIPSON AND SON, LTD. (process engravers and art photographers, etc.).—Mortgage dated August 9th, 1921, to secure £2,000.

charged on 18 and 20, Oxford-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Holder: W. Vincent, 15, Moonfield, Highwest Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

GREENFIELD AND CO., LTD. (box manufacturers).—Mortgage dated August 12th, 1921, to secure £1,500, charged on land with Victoria Mills thereon, in Salford, Lancs. Holder: Mrs. M. Field, Aynsome, Oakfield-road, Didsbury, Manchester.

MARSDEN AND CO., LTD. (proprietors and publishers *Textile Mercury*, etc., Manchester).—Particulars of £8,000 debentures, authorised August 16th, 1921; whole amount issued; charged on the company's undertaking and property, present and future, including uncalled capital.

JAMES SMITH AND SON, MUSIC SELLERS, LTD. (Liverpool).—Satisfaction in full on February 4th, 1920, of mortgage debentures dated May 15th, 1913, securing £5,000 (notified August 16th, 1921).

IRISH PAPER MILLS CO., LTD.—Trust deed dated July 28th (supplemental to deed dated May 25th, 1921, securing £150,000 debentures) charged on certain freehold properties, rights, easements, appurtenances, plant and machinery, etc. Trustees: National Provincial and Union Bank of England.

ASSOCIATED PAPER MILLS, LTD. (formerly Amalgamated Paper Mills, Ltd.).—Particulars of £150,000 debentures authorised July 29th, 1921, whole amount issued; charged on the company's undertaking and property, present and future, including uncalled capital. The company undertakes to grant disposition in security on the Kelvindale Paper Mills, Maryhill, Glasgow.

Gazette.

A WORD OF CAUTION.

In giving the official Gazette information, it must be distinctly understood that we take official records as we find them, and accept no responsibility for inaccuracies, while, as an almost invariable rule, the facts will be found correct. We advise our readers, before forming hasty judgment, to consider that there may be in each case satisfactory explanation which does not appear on the records.—Ed.]

ENGLAND AND WALES.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Harry Barnett Woodburn, Martin Henry Jenkins, and Alfred Clifton Griffin, wood engravers, Bangor House, 68, Shoe-lane, E.C. Georges Thorelle and Maxwell Winter, sellers of gold leaf, 118 and 119, Cheap-side, E.C. Charles Edward Henry Wann. Stanley Alexander Victor Probyn and Ernest Harris Siddway, advertising agents, 458, Seven Sisters-road, N.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1914.

RECEIVING ORDER.

Hackett, H. D., 47, Leage-street, Old-street, waste paper merchant, August 24th. Public examination, December 9th, at Bankruptcy-buildings, Carey-street.

The Picture Post Card Trade.

Raphael Tuck and Sons' Report.

Despite the adverse effect upon the picture post card trade of the recent alteration in postal rates—occurring late in the concluded trading year—a very satisfactory report was presented at the ordinary general meeting of Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., held on Wednesday of last week. Sir Adolph Tuck, Bart., the chairman of the company, presided, and drew attention to the fact that the present company has now entered upon its 21st year, and the business has completed the fifty-fifth year of its existence in one unbroken line. He was able to state that, so far as volume is concerned, the past year's trade was the largest in the history of the company, actually above last year's figures, which were then the highest on record. On the other hand, the expenditure during the twelve months under review, from May 1st, 1920, to April 30th, 1921, was abnormally high. With regard to the company's Paris branch, the poor state of trade in France, coupled with heavy and unfair taxation, was compelling the directors to consider the advisability of closing this branch, and working the French market from London.

Post Card Postage.

Dealing at some length with the question of the increased postal rates, Sir Adolph reviewed the great efforts made by the trade in opposition to these imposts, but he added that the final upshot was that the carefully considered opinion of the picture post card trade, the opinion of all practical men, and of almost the whole of the Press of the country was simply ignored, and instead, the advice of a few gentlemen comfortably seated behind their desks in St. Martin's-le-Grand, was taken, and this ill-considered increase rushed through Parliament. What was the result? From the very day the postage was raised—namely, June 13th—the predicted drop in the sale of picture post cards occurred, and as chairman of the committee combating this blunder, it had fallen to his (Sir Adolph's) lot to receive many hundreds of communications from retailers throughout the country, many of them couched in strong language, giving the actual percentage of the loss of sales from the day the increase started, this loss averaging nearly 50 per cent.

The company's trade in Christmas and New Year cards, birthday cards and greeting cards generally was reported to be maintaining its strong position.

The net profit was stated as £47,363 odd, and the proposed dividend of 10p.c. and allocation of profits as indicated in our commercial intelligence pages last week, were approved.

MESSRS. J. A. HARGREAVES AND SON, paper merchants, announce they have removed to 11, Garden-street, Leeds.

Canadian Copyright Act, 1921. Benn Brothers and Bureaucracy.

The Board of Trade have received copy of the Canadian Copyright Act, 1921, assented to on June 4th, 1921, which amends and consolidates the Law relating to copyright. This Act repeals all existing copyright Laws in Canada, both Imperial (in so far as they are in force in Canada, and provided that legal rights existing at the time of repeal are not prejudicially affected) and Canadian. It will not come into operation until proclaimed in force by the Governor in Council.

By Section 4 copyright is conferred upon every original literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic work, if the author was at the date of the making of the work a British subject, a citizen or subject of a foreign country which has adhered to the revised Berne Copyright Convention of 1908, and the Additional Protocol thereto, or resident within H.M. Dominions; and if in the case of a published work, the work was first published within H.M. Dominions or in such foreign country. Registration is optional, but a certificate of registration is to be *prima facie* evidence of the existence and ownership of copyright.

Section 13 provides that if the owner of the copyright in a book fails to print the book in Canada, and to supply the reasonable demands of the Canadian market by means of copies printed in Canada, any person may apply in the prescribed form to the Copyright Office for a licence to print and publish the book in Canada.

When such a licence has been granted, importation of copies, except in certain specified cases, is prohibited under Section 27 of the Act. The principal exception is that copies of any book lawfully printed in the United Kingdom or in a foreign country which has adhered to the Convention and Additional Protocol, and published and sold in that country, may be imported into Canada, subject to any evidence of facts required by the Canadian Customs.

A VERY useful little book on "Rules and Conduct of Debate," by G. K. and T. E. Naylor, has been published by Ellis and King, 20, Willowbridge-road, Canonbury, N. (Price 2s.).

MESSRS. SLATER AND PALMER send us specimen prints showing how effectively very varied subjects—from landscape to portraiture—can be executed in three-colour work by the use of their yellow No. 97, red No. 99, and blue No. 98.

MESSRS. JOHN DICKINSON are making a special mail card, 8 by 10 ins., suitable for transmission through the post at a penny. The size of the card, which is made from Dickinson's 8-sheet international quality pasteboards, can be used, as the firm's own announcement shows, as a means of effectively advertising and illustrating special lines of goods.

At the twenty-fifth annual general meeting of Benn Brothers, Ltd., held on Friday, the proposed dividend making 15 per cent. for the past year was approved and Sir John Williams Benn, Bt., D.L., J.P., L.C.C., had some interesting remarks to make.

Mentioning that, as the net result of their considerable investment, the shareholders receive a sum of £11,307, he said that to secure this no less than £180,000 had passed, in one way or another, to wage-earners, and approximately £20,000 to the National Treasury. Reductions of wages were in the air, and it might be perhaps assumed that this £180,000 will grow less. He did not think so. It was true that this large item represented the highest wage standard extant in our industry, but in his judgment any wage reduction would really result in a total increase of this labour item, as the result would be extension of business.

Severely criticising governmental interference with industry, he remarked that the present rate and manner of taxation offers a premium to bankruptcy and unemployment. As an example, he cited the recent corporation tax. "It is not to Labour," he said, "but in another direction that we have to look for the greatest obstacle to activity and progress which now bars the industrial path. The bureaucrat must be swept out of the way."

DANISH PRISON NEWSPAPER.—The Danish prison authorities, in connection with the introduction of reforms, are considering the adoption of the American idea of the publication of a newspaper for prisoners. The paper will cover political, home, foreign, and general news, and possibly have pictures.

FOREIGN POSTAGE RATES.—The Postmaster-General finds it necessary to draw attention to the fact that considerable numbers of insufficiently stamped letters are being sent through the post to places abroad and more especially to the Continent. A loss of revenue to the British Post Office is involved, as such letters are duly forwarded and charged on delivery with double the amount of the deficiency; but the surcharge is retained by the foreign administrations. The prepaid rate of postage on letters for all foreign countries (except the United States of America and Tangier) is 3d. for the first ounce and 1½d. for each succeeding ounce or fraction of an ounce; from the United Kingdom to British Possessions generally, the United States, Tangier and H.M. ships and troops on foreign stations, the letter rate is 2d. for the first ounce and 1½d. for each succeeding ounce or fraction thereof. The dispatch of mails will be greatly facilitated if the correct rate of postage is prepaid.

DON'T work for applause. Work for results. The applause will then take care of itself.

Printing for the Blind.

Work of the National Institute.

In providing the blind with reading matter, inestimable service is rendered by the National Institute for the Blind (Great Portland-street), whose well-known president is Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E., and in whose list of vice-presidents are several names familiar to printers, including those of Viscount Northcliffe, Viscount Rothermere, Sir T. Vansittart Bowater, Bart., and Sir W. Robertson Nicoll, M.A., LL.D. It will be remembered, too, that Major H. Fordyce-Birch, late secretary of the London Master Printers' Association, recently transferred his services to the Institute.

The Institute's editorial and publishing department is mainly concerned with the production of books and magazines in the two embossed types, Braille and Moon. The extent of this branch of the Institute's work may be gauged by the number of publications issued during the year ending March 31st, covered by the annual report which has just reached us. The figures are:—Braille publications, including music, 250,295; Moon publications, 22,460; while 8,279 volumes, newspapers and pamphlets were supplied free to the National Library for the Blind during the year.

Fourteen Braille magazines and newspapers are published, and particular mention should also be made of the Braille and Moon editions of the Bible which are published and extensively circulated.

Embossing processes being of great utility in the production of educational and other apparatus for the blind, the Institute's printing department has made this branch of the trade the subject of some valuable and experimental work under the direction of Mr. J. Acton, and some very interesting "pictures" for blind readers have formed part of the results achieved.

Books of an educational and special character are provided by the manuscript department, where every effort is made to meet the constant demands for educational works of all descriptions; 1,428 volumes were produced by this department during the year.

The loss to the Institute by its gifts and by the sale at a greatly reduced price of its Braille literature, apparatus, etc., represented during the year the sum of £24,293.

The export of paper cuttings and waste paper, rags, white, and vegetable fibre from Spain is prohibited.

The Swedish Consul General for Peru, who is now on a visit at Gothenburg for the purpose of preparing more intimate commercial relations between Sweden and Peru, states that among other things paper can now be exported to and sold in Peru, which is able to send cotton, rubber, sugar, etc., in return.

Printing and Allied Trades

CHARITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

Successful Swimming Gala.

Some fine swimming was witnessed at this annual event of the Association, which took place on Saturday at Shoreditch Baths, Hoxton. Many of the trade and open events were keenly contested, and during the evening a graceful diving display was given by the ladies of the Mermaid Swimming Club. The officials were Sir William A. Waterlow, K.B.E. (president), Edgar L. Waterlow and J. J. Keliher (vice-presidents), A. G. Wills and H. F. Parker (secretaries), and A. Hudson (timekeeper).

Among the trade events was the 33 yards team championship of the printing trades for the John Fry Cup, which resulted in an easy and popular win for the Belle Sauvage Club, with Waterlow's 2nd, and the Amalgamated Press 3rd.

The relay race for teams representing the London daily newspapers resulted in the handsome Borthwick Challenge Bowl being retained by *The Times*, who swam over, there being no challengers.

Besides several interesting open events there was also some good sport witnessed in the Polo match, which resulted in a win for Avondale over Penguin by three goals to one.

The satisfactory manner in which the gala was organised reflected much credit on the officials.

TENDERS are invited for printing and stationery for the Limavady Board of Guardians and Rural District Council (latest date September 5th) and for the Maldon Union and for the Rural District Council of Maldon (September 21st).

ALLEGED PARCHMENT FRAUD.—At Mansion House Police Court Frederick Harvey, 66, printer's cutter, and Edward James Stocker, 45, electrician, both living at Victoria-road, Holloway, were charged with being concerned together in obtaining by means of a forged order four reams of parchment paper, value £3 17s., from Messrs. Wiggins, Teape and Co. (1919), Ltd., with intent to defraud. On the previous day the accused called at prosecutors' warehouse, and Harvey presented an order purporting to be signed by Messrs. Driver, stationers, of 62, Carter-lane, E.C. The manager noticed that the order was not on Drivers' usual form, and he communicated with them by telephone. The order was not signed by Drivers, nor by their authority. Detective-sergeant Addison stated that there had been complaints of 12 similar transactions, and Harvey answered the description of a man wanted. A remand was granted, bail for Harvey being refused.

The Bookbinder.

To-Day's Book-Covering Materials.

The slump in orders and the high costs of paper and printing have led recently to the adoption of some rather unorthodox and undesirable materials for book covers. Like the cretonne craze, which has made ladies' dresses uncomfortably reminiscent of ottoman covers, the craze for cheapness has produced books the sight of which would have sent a shiver down the spine of a binder-craftsman of the olden days; indeed, even these very cretonnes have been seen on productions which hitherto have appeared in bookbinders' cloth.

There are signs now that the boom in cheapness has passed its zenith, and a return is beginning toward materials more worthy of the binder's skill. Genuine "full bindings," however, are still largely out of the running, for prices of leathers are prohibitive for ordinary purposes; moreover, the cost of the raw material is still rising, and though no one seems to know just why prices should be thus appreciating—contrary to the movement in prices of most commodities—there seems little basis for anticipating an early break in the leather market. More reasonable prices, nevertheless, are bound to come, and their coming may be hastened somewhat by the present action of binders in subsisting largely on stocks and exercising the greatest caution where buying has to be done. With paper cheaper, and hopes not yet dead that printing prices may follow suit, there should soon be some signs of revival in the use of leather—the binder's material *par excellence*. Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to learn that there has of late been a slight but perceptible strengthening of the demand for the better quality cloths, which means the fuller utilisation of the art of the craftsman and the capabilities of the binder's machinery, both of which can give a better account of themselves when working with the more substantial materials. On the other hand, the fact must not be overlooked that the cheaper coverings have their place. Many of the materials which go by the rather disparaging name of "imitations"—imitation leathers, cloths, and the like—are of very serviceable quality; moreover, even for the more ephemeral of these materials it can be claimed that they fill a real need in giving merely temporary protection and neatness to volumes, necessarily cheap, intended only to be read and cast aside.

A glance at the stocks of some of the dealers in covering materials shows that the book-

binder of to-day has a most varied range of materials at his disposal, a range from which he should be able to make selections that will meet the requirement of every class of customer.

Imitation leathers are, of course, a line of manufacture that has made immense strides forward of late years. Some of the best products of this kind are scarcely distinguishable from the real thing, and some of them, while not remarkably good as imitations, have yet an attractiveness all their own. One of the latest things of the sort we have seen is the imitation chamois submitted to us recently among British Pluviusin specimens. This is a distinctive and attractive material, and is made in a number of different stock shades. It is a creditable addition to the same company's other imitation leathers.

In book cloths, one cannot but be impressed by the immense range of choice offered among the productions of the Winterbottom Book Cloth Co., a concern which has been in the market for 30 years or more, and has established a world-wide reputation. Among this firm's newer manufactures we find their art vellums in great demand, the excellent designs of these and their surprising variety of colourings rendering them very generally popular. The same makers' art canvas, art cambrics, art linens, etc., also enjoy deserved popularity, while fresh interest has lately been manifested in their "Winvis," a semi-waterproof material, which can be readily cleansed, while great advantages are claimed for it in respect of export requirements by virtue of its resistance to damp and to the attacks of destructive insects.

We hear there have been big demands lately, especially in respect of publishers' fiction binding, for the materials known as "Clochette" and "Fibrette," manufactured by Messrs. Garwood and Muddiman. Of these attractive imitation cloths, the former is a natural coloured substance, which wears the same colour all through, while the latter, surface coloured, has an exceptionally bright finish. In the purchase of these materials the binder is able to make special arrangements in regard to exclusive colours, etc., to enable him to satisfy publishers' requirements.

Among the more substantial materials of which we anticipate there will soon be more extensive use, mention must be made of Messrs. Nickerson Brothers' "Legal Buckram."

It speaks volumes for this buckram that it satisfies the severe requirements of the Bureau of Standards of the United States in the specification of buckram for binding volumes to be filed for record. We understand Messrs. Nickerson guarantee this material to be free from aniline dyes, all material attractive to insects, and to be absolutely sun-fast. The ease with which "Legal Buckram" works, the non-glossy under-side taking adhesive readily, is also a point in its favour, to which the practical binder attaches much importance.

In the market for buckrams it is probable more may soon be heard of the Manchester firm of T. Williamson and Co., whose linen buckram was not produced during the war. Messrs. Williamson, we understand, are considering putting this material on the market again, and anticipate being able to offer an all linen buckram at about the same price at which union buckram is selling to-day. The house of Williamson, by the way, can claim to have achieved something considerable in the way of development as manufacturers of bookbinders' cloths, etc., their business having grown from doing about a dozen shades in one quality to stocking about 40 different shades in three qualities, all of which can be embossed to a selection of about 40 designs, and when trade is normal selling several hundreds of rolls each week, this being exclusive of the trade in cotton and linen buckrams.

BINDING NOTES AND NEWS.

The bookbinding trade does not appear to have been quite so badly hit by the depression as the other side of the industry, but even so it is very difficult to find a house working full time. There are slight signs of improvement, except in the publishing section, and here no revival is expected until the cost of production warrants the issue of new editions. At the time of writing the result of the second ballot on wages is unknown, but if our anticipation is correct the wages question will be no nearer a definite settlement by the time these notes appear in print than it is now. The negotiations are extremely delicate, and the situation is full of dangerous possibilities so that our best course is to leave other anticipations alone and trust to the common-sense of the respective leaders. Granted a settlement of the wages question and the exit of August, which was a fearful month, there are brighter possibilities of trade improvement for the remaining months of the year. Not many houses will in any event finish this year with their trading account on the right side.

Prices of Materials.

Not much change has taken place during the last four weeks in the price of bookbinding materials. Leathers are at low level and there is talk of a hardening process when the demand sets in. There is very keen competition between makers and little or nothing to choose between their prices when quality and reliability is taken into consideration. The current market values range close to the following figures: Paste-grain skivers, 7½d., 8½d. and 10d. per square foot; glazed skivers,

6d. to 8d.; grained skivers, 6d. to 8d.; glazed basils, 8d. to 11d.; roller basils, 8d. to 9d.; fair basils, 10d. to 1s.; grained basils, 9½d. to 1s.; rough sheep, 8d. to 10d.; rough sheep fleashes, 7d.; rough moroccos, 10d.; fair calf, 1s. 9d. and 2s. 3d.; rough calf, 1s. 2d. and 1s. 6d.; selected rough goat, 1s. 2d.; velvet calf, 2s. 3d.; grained velvet calf, 2s. 3d.; velvet persians, 1s. 4d.; glazed persians, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.; hard grained goat, 2s. 1d.; pigskins, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d.; Anglo hides, 1s. 6d., 1s. 9d. and 2s. to 2s. 6d. for best selected full covers.

The Slump in Boards.

Millboards have eased within recent weeks and the range of qualities on the market runs from the common foreign grey board at £25 per ton to the best black hand-made board at £50 per ton. Strawboards have no fixed value, as every binder who has asked for quotations must know. If there was a market value it would be in the region of £10 per ton for light substance unlined boards of first grade. Dutch quotations approximate to £8 10s. per ton when all the charges are covered. All this counts for little in the face of the absolute slump and the heavy stocks in store which are accumulating storage cost all the time. Some agents and merchants are willing and anxious to sell out at £8 per ton with an extra charge for small lots and carriage. For large orders £7 per ton (light weight basis) is a common quotation, and this week a special temporary offer at £6 per ton has been circulated.

Glues, Gold and Cloths.

Glues have resumed their downward trend and to-day quotations include best Scotch pale unstamped squares at £60 per ton. Reliable binder's glue can be secured at 52s. to 50s. per cwt. Gold leaf is steady at a figure in advance of earlier quotations. One or two importers who are well bought are offering stocks at an advantage to the buyer while they last. Bookcloths remain firm at the July level excepting for imported qualities which are being sold at about 2d. per yard below our standard makes. A second quality of English bookcloth is on the market at 1s. per yard. Buckrams range from 3s. 5d. (union material) to 4s. 6d. per yard, and the prices are firm. Calicoes are quoted from 6d. to 8d. per yard, and there is no immediate prospect of any decline. American leather cloths have recently been reduced, but the proprietary imitation leathers remain unaltered.

Lining Paper Demand.

Marble papers are in poor demand and increased attention is being paid to fancy lining papers. Messrs. L. S. Dixon and Co., of Cable-street, Liverpool, and Messrs. Samuel Jones, Ltd., of London, are offering useful patterns for the bookbinder. There is still a need for a cheap but good looking and suitable lining paper for stationery book end papers. Something cheaper than marble paper is needed, and there is no necessity to attempt any imitation of marbling effects. An English production at the present time could claim the market and deal to the marble paper trade a blow which it would not survive.

Belgian Flints.

Belgian flints of remarkably fine finish, almost rivaling the gelatine surface, are being quoted to-day at 25s. per ream in double crown.

Brisk Leather Development.

Messrs. A. and J. Shaw, Ltd., of Grantham, have appointed a new representative for the North and contemplate opening an office and storeroom in Manchester. There is a great need for leather stocks in that city, ranking, as it does, as the centre of the largest book-leather using fraternity in the country. A go-a-head house could secure many orders simply on the basis of prompt delivery, especially for small urgent orders. The great difficulty lies in securing accommodation, for there is not an available office anywhere near the centre of the city.

New British Patents.

Applications.

Bisset, J. L. Postal wrapper or envelope. 21,727.
Brazier, W. Envelopes. 21,621.
Burnley Express Printing Co., Ltd., and Melling, J. Letter paper, cards, etc. 21,579.
Miller, J. Materials for posters, show cards, etc. 22,098.

Mollins, W. E. Machines for producing printed labels or tickets from strip. 21,775.
Penson, F. A. Hand guillotines. 21,619.
Stubbs, S., and Sturdy, E. B. Presses for stamping and cutting sheet metal, card board, felting, etc. 22,132.

Specifications Published. 1920.

Barber, J. E. Method of combining vertical and horizontal rules in letterpress printing. 167,694.
Bush, E., and Bush, H. Machines for varnishing or gumming sheets of paper and the like. 167,628.

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The Turn of the Tide.

PRESENT trade depression must give way in due course to more normal conditions. Be ready for the Turn of the Tide by advertising in the Next Export Issue of the *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer*—Sept. 15th, 1921.

A Buyers' Guide.

A FEATURE is "A Buyers' Guide" which gives the names and specialities of manufacturers and supply houses advertising in its pages. Firms catering for the requirements of Colonial and Foreign Printers, Box, Bag and Envelope Makers, find our export issues unexcelled as a medium with a strong business pull.

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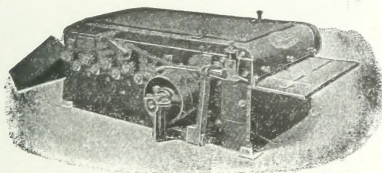
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